THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government of Maharashtra has requested Ministry of Road Transport and Highways for reimbursement of 40% cost of the project.

(c) Request was made by Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation in January, 2002. As per the policy of the Union Government, the cost of such projects developed by the State Government on State roads are not reimbursed. The Ministry has, however, signed a Concession Agreement with Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation permitting them to levy toll on existing National Highway-4, running generally parallel to Expressway, after completion of some improvement works including widening. The concession period of toll collection upto 30th April, 2030, has been fixed after taking into consideration the capitalised cost of Rs. 704.45 crore of common portion of Expressway and NH-4 which is more than 40% of cost of the entire Expressway.

National Highway No. 5

1757. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that representation have been made to the NHAI to look into some grievances amongst local people on the NH-5 in East Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) what are the steps being taken by NHAI in this regard;

(c) whether any reply has been sent to the organisations which made suggestions to request NHAI for some minor modifications;

(d) the steps proposed by NHAI to act on such demands; and

(e) the reasons for delay in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) to (e) Hon'ble Minister of Roads and Buildings Department, Government of Andhra Pradesh in June, 2004 suggested taking up some additional works of flyovers/underpasses service roads, regarding of approaches, drains, median cuts etc. on NH-5 in East Godavari district based on represen-

tations received by him from local people. This section of NH-5 was jointly inspected on 11.07.2004 by the Hon'ble Minister, Government of Andhra Pradesh and senior, NHAI officials and it was observed that since four laning of stretch from km. 80 to km. 164.5 (Gondugulami to Gowthami Bridge) has already been completed and rest of the four laning work is at the advance stage of completion, it may not be possible to add major additional works like flyovers/underpasses and service roads at this juncture. However, minor improvements such as provision of median openings, regrading of approaches, drain etc., wherever justified and feasible are being considered.

Mega Road Project

1758. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:
SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of construction work of highways linking Kashmir to Kanya Kumari and Gujarat to Assam that has been completed as on 1st June, 2004;

(b) by when, this mega project is likely to be completed; and

(c) what was the estimated cost of this project and when the work on it started alongwith the amount spent till date and estimated cost on completion of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) About 9% of the length of National Highways linking Srinagar to Kanyakumari and Porbander (Gujarat) to Silchar (Assam) has been 4-laned under North-South and East-West (NS-EW) Corridor as on 1st June 2004.

(b) NS-EW Corridors is targeted to be completed by December 2007.

(c) Four laning of NS-EW Corridor under National Highways Development Project was started in 1999. The approved cost of the project is Rs.34189 crore against which Rs.2250 crore has been spent. It is expected that the expenditure on the project will remain within the approved cost.